

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An operator control device for controlling an endoscope, the endoscope having an endoscope shaft with a fixed feature positioned along the shaft, the operator control device comprising:

one or more controls for controlling the endoscope;

a ~~rotating component~~ rotatable coupler for ~~being coupled~~ rotatably securing the operator control device to ~~[[a]]~~ the fixed feature on the endoscope shaft, the ~~rotating component~~ rotatable coupler allowing rotation of the operator control device with respect to the endoscope shaft but preventing movement along the length of the endoscope shaft;

a trigger component for switching the operator control device between an engaged mode and a disengaged mode; and

an anti-rotating component for preventing the operator control device from rotating with respect to the endoscope shaft when the operator control device is in the engaged mode, the operator control device being allowed to rotate with respect to the endoscope shaft when the operator control device is in the disengaged mode, wherein said operator control device can be detached from the endoscope shaft.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the trigger component may be manually operated to switch between the engaged mode and the disengaged mode.

4. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the trigger component may be remotely operated to switch between the engaged mode and the disengaged mode.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the fixed feature on the endoscope shaft is a break-out box.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{LLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The device of Claim [[8]] 1, wherein the ~~collar~~ rotatable coupler is a rotating locking collar that is attached to the proximal end of the fixed feature on the endoscope shaft.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein the ~~rotating~~ rotatable coupler component comprises one-half of a clutch wherein the other half of the clutch is built into the fixed feature on the endoscope shaft.

13-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the anti-rotating component comprises an anti-rotation pad.

22-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) An operator control device for controlling an endoscope, comprising:

a rotatable coupler that rotatably couples the operator control to a fixed feature on an endoscope shaft such that the operator control can be selectively rotated about the endoscope shaft but is prevented from moving along a length of the shaft;

a shaft collar in line with the rotatable coupler such that an endoscope shaft can be releasably secured to the operator control device through the rotatable coupler and the shaft collar;

a U-shaped handle extending between the rotatable coupler and the shaft collar;

an endoscope control mounted on the U-shaped handle; and

a trigger positioned between the U-shaped handle and the endoscope shaft for engaging and disengaging the operator control device from the endoscope shaft.